



MSHDA REVIEW

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*Your Affordable Housing Partner
Celebrating Its 35th Year*

September 2001

MSHDA TAKES ON NEW PROGRAM

MSHDA will administer a new program that offers nonprofits, for-profits, and next-door neighbors an opportunity to acquire state-owned, tax-reverted properties in the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. The goal of the RevitaLife program is to improve these communities by returning state-owned properties to productive use.

To launch the initiative, Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus recently transferred ownership of 35 state properties to six Detroit area nonprofit organizations for the purpose of building new or rehabilitating existing family homes in Highland Park, Detroit and Hamtramck. The transfers represent the first shifts under an initiative started last year to facilitate transferring ownership to groups committed to rebuilding on state-owned, blighted properties in the Detroit area.

In addition to nonprofits benefitting from the transfer program, for-profits and next-door neighbors also may participate. Approximately 1,940 parcels are available this year, and several thousand may become available during the next several years.

Nonprofit and for-profit organizations apply through Juergensen & Associates, the firm managing the application process, at (313) 824-3400. Ward and parcel numbers are required to apply.

Parcels unsuitable for building may be available for transfer to qualified neighbors as side lots. Neighbors should receive notification by the end of November,

- however Juergensen & Associates
- may be contacted at (313) 824-3400 for more information. Application fees apply.

**RevitaLife
program
to revitalize
Detroit,
Hamtramck,
Highland Park**

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A
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publication of the



Michigan State Housing

Development Authority



JAMES L. LOGUE III

As most of you have learned, moving a household is a trying experience at best, but how often do you move a five-story building with a staff of nearly 300 – all in a single weekend. Thank goodness, only about every 25 years!



CHANGE IS EXCITING – ALSO CHAOTIC AS LANSING OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

In reality, for a move of that magnitude, it was amazingly well-organized. Because of the hard work of our move coordinators and the overwhelming cooperation from staff, we moved on Friday and for all practical purposes, were open for business on Monday.

Now that we have had a few weeks to settle in, pinpoint our offices, unearth missing items, unpack, and learn where the rest-

rooms are located (not necessarily in that order), we can finally heave a sigh of relief and say – IT WAS ALL WORTH IT!

Fresh new smells, clean carpeting, radiant new colors, sparkling restrooms, shiny furniture, and glistening windows are just a few of the material things that make coming to work in the morning a gratifying experience (and finally having a place to park that isn't light years away helps,

too). But nothing compares to the wonderful feeling one gets seeing the smiling faces of happy staffers who appreciate their new work environment. Please join us in celebrating the grand opening of our new offices.

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate the opening of MSHDA's Lansing office on Wednesday, September 26 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 735 East Michigan Avenue Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 2 p.m. RSVP ASAP to: (517) 335-2006 (Parking Available on Site)



MOVING PICTURES





Putting People In-MSHDA-Homes

HEARTWARMING STORIES OF HOW MSHDA HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTAL PROGRAMS HELP PUT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES INTO HOMES THAT FIT THEIR NEEDS

MSHDA's Single Family Division Property Improvement Program

Fall is a good time to think about home improvements, and Kurt and Meagan Smith can testify to the fact that MSHDA's Property Improvement Program (PIP) helps low and moderate income homeowners fix up their homes. Meagan Smith home schools her two

older children, Alex and Emma, and their modest home simply did not have enough room for the family that also includes two-year-old Isaac. Having originally purchased their home through MSHDA's Single Family program, the Smiths knew about the incentives and lower interest rates available for property improvements. They didn't need to search any further.

"The interest rate was at least one full percentage point lower than the market, plus the term of the loan was longer, so our monthly payments are lower," says Kurt. "Some might think there is more paperwork, but we found it no more or less than any other type of loan. The difference is working with an experienced lender who guides you through the process."



Habitat for Humanity of Michigan



Dr. Kenneth Bensen, president of Habitat for Humanity of Michigan happily accepts MSHDA's \$3 million oversized check from Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus at their annual banquet at the Kellogg Center. Habitat Board Chairperson Mary Fowlie and WLNS-TV news anchor Jane Aldrich look on. The check represents Habitat's 3-year allotment from the Michigan Affordable Housing Fund.



PARTNERSHIPS BRING HOUSING TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Since its inception three years ago, MSHDA's HOME Team Advantage program in partnership with USDA-Rural Development, has committed or closed on 816 units of new housing in 22 developments. Of these, 299 units are for the elderly and 517 for families. Nearly one-third of the apartments are rent restricted and available to families with incomes below 30 percent of area median income.

FREE BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN

This year in Michigan, 6,800 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 1,400 will die from the disease. The Department of Community Health is urging help in recruiting and referring low-income women who qualify to have screenings under the Breast Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). Since 1991, over 1.5 million women have been helped by the national initiative. For further information, call your local health department or 800-922-MAMM.



George Fox Retires After 30 years

Right up until his retirement in August, there has been just a mere five years of MSHDA's 35-year history that George Fox has not been on staff. And according to many past and present colleagues who came to share in his retirement festivities, his sharp financial wizardry, keen sense of humor, and rare leadership skills have raised MSHDA to levels unrivaled by any HFA in the country.

"His mastery of HFA finance and the respect he commands nationally are an honor for MSHDA and a tribute to George," said Executive Director Jim Logue. "We'll all miss him and his expertise."



MSHDA RECOGNIZES ANNIVERSARY OF DISABILITIES ACT

As a champion of people with disabilities in their quest for affordable and supportive housing, MSHDA cannot let the 11th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) go unnoticed. The Act reflects one of the most revolutionary laws ever passed in promoting access of people with disabilities into the work force, supportive housing and, as a result – self-sufficiency and independence.

In spite of the great strides the ADA has allowed people with disabilities to make, more needs to be done to ensure that they have clear access to all facets of American life. MSHDA intends to continue aggressively promoting the ADA in its supportive housing programs as well as in all other mortgage and rental programs throughout the Authority. The following article reflects that commitment.



MSHDA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT WINS AWARD

Developers of Arbordale Apartments in Ann Arbor, the first project in the state to open under the Michigan Supportive Housing Demonstration Project, received the distinguished Pyramid award recently from the Washtenaw Contractors Association.

The award for best project team went to Avalon Housing, Phoenix Contractors, and Cornerstone Design for their work on Avalon's Arbordale Apartments complex.

Arbordale provides affordable rental housing to the disabled, homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, thanks in part to a \$1.4 million loan from MSHDA as well as assistance from the Michigan Department of Community Health.



Equal Housing Lender



Web Site Address: www.mshda.org

MSHDA
P. O. Box 30044 • Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-8370 • (TTY) 800-382-4568

Editor: Mary Lou Keenon/Communications
James L. Logue III, Executive Director
Michigan State Housing Development Authority

Kathleen M. Willbur, Director
Michigan Department of Consumer
& Industry Services

John Engler, Governor
State of Michigan

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